



THE BELLOWS

21st GREAT YEAR

December 16 1999

Puget Sound Photographic Collector's Society, Inc.

Vol. XXI, No. 3

WHAT	NEXT REGULAR MEETING OF PSPCS
WHERE	DES MOINES MASONIC TEMPLE 2208 S. 223rd St. (Take Midway exit #149 west off I-5..go to first stop light west of Pacific Hwy S...turn right.)
WHEN	Thursday, December 16th, 1999, 7:30 till 10:00 p.m. (Doors open about 6:30 p.m.)
WHY	Short business meeting..auction (one item per member please)..door prize..Show & Tell.. member trade and sell tables (free to members, please cover table during business meeting). <u>Program:</u> This is our special Christmas meeting with our annual gift exchange presided over by Santa. There will be a vast spread of catered food and drink...arrive hungry!

TIS THE SEASON:

It is the last "teen" Christmas of the 20th Century and time once again for our famous P.S.P.C.S. Christmas party meeting and gift exchange. This is the meeting to which you are urged to bring your whole family. The more kids the better!

We will have another huge spread of food and drink; so don't eat dinner just arrive hungry and ready to partake. (Just thank Shirley and John between bites.)

Then, after a short meeting and before you fall into a stupor, it will be time for our gift exchange for all those who choose to take part. (You do not have to take part. Just come, eat, exchange holiday wishes and then sit, watch and enjoy the spectacle.) Santa has promised to drop in to help pass out the gifts with hopes that you will sit on his lap!

If you would like to be part of the gift exchange just bring a wrapped gift for each member of your group who is taking part. Please bring a photographic related gift that will make it's recipient happy..a gift worth at least ten dollars and something you would enjoy receiving. A M3 Leica would be nice!...Just kidding.

As in past years we will draw numbers to determine the order of gift selection. Remember, the person picking can exchange their gift with any gift already picked. Number one gets to exchange, if they want, after everyone else has had a turn.

This is a most enjoyable meeting. Come one Come all! Bring your appetite, a photographic type present, a bunch of happy wishes and ENJOY! HO, HO, HO.

2000 SHOW COMMITTEE OFF AND RUNNING:

Planning for our 2000 Show is under way. April 22 is the date and everything (table prices, location, hours of operation etc.) will stay the same. You will receive your 2000 Show brochure and table order form along with your January Bellows. As a club member, with paid-up dues, you will have 12 days to get your table order in before we open tables up to non members.

With thanks to the Arizona Photographic Collectors here is:

This Month's Mystery Question:

Answers at end of Newsletter.

What rare camera made similar to a pocket watch has six self-erecting telescoping tubes?

The November 18th meeting came to order at 7:29 p.m. There were 47 members and guests in attendance. Bill Kimber filled in for Dave Studebaker. Minutes of the September meeting were approved. Treasurer Shirley, reported there was enough in our account to cover the cost of our annual Christmas feast.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Members reported that the Vancouver B.C. show was good and packed with people all day. The Portland show had about 900 buyers through the doors and about 30 tables were not used. Members did report they had a good selling day and hoped the show would continue next year. It was reported that attendance and tables were down a bit at the Eugene show. Gary Sivertsen, 2000 Show Chairman, reported that the committee is working. Show date is April 22, 2000.

NEW BUSINESS:

Our December 16th meeting will be our Christmas party with gifts, food and Santa.

SHOW & TELL:

Ten members brought some very interesting items to Show & Tell.

AUCTION:

Six of nine items sold for a total of \$134.00.

PROGRAM:

The program was a surprise celebration, organized by Shirley Sparrow, of the club's 20th anniversary. The minutes of the very first meeting of October 27, 1979, and of the second and third meetings, were read by Shirley. She then surprised everyone by presenting wonderful plaques to the Charter members from 1979. Bill Kimber, Gary Sivertsen, John Sparrow and several others spoke about their recollections of how the Club got started, etc. Ed Frey won \$20.00 as a special prize for being the 20th member to sign in at our 20th anniversary meeting. Nummy cake and ice cream was then served while door prizes were being won by Gary Sivertsen and guest Manuel Fonhupt.

The meeting adjourned as seconds on the cake and ice cream were served. Burp!

SINCERE BEST HOLIDAY WISHES TO YOU & YOURS



THE BELLOWS Newsletter is published 9 times per year by Puget Sound Photographic Collector's Society, Inc. Information for The Bellows should be sent to: Bill Kimber 1413 Weathervane Dr., Tacoma, WA 98466-5712 (253) 564-4046

The P.S.P.C.S. internet address is: <http://www.geocities.com/eureka/park/3740/>

Dues are \$10.00 per year and should be sent to Secretary/Treasurer Shirley Sparrow, 300 Pease Road, Cle Elum, WA 98922 (509) 674-1916. P.S.P.C.S. members receive first notification of our last Saturday in April yearly show.

PRESIDENT: DAVE STUDEBAKER, (253) 582-4878

Creating My "Daguerreian Outfit"

by Mike Kessler

I was looking at the camera collection the other day and remembering some of the nearly insane adventures I had in putting it together. How I got my daguerreian outfit is probably one of the strangest.

It was the mid-1970s, and I had been driving my Volkswagon Beetle to the East Coast and back to Southern California for five or six years already, visiting and trading with collectors and participating in the few camera shows that existed then. I had a lot of energy in those days. At the "Midwest" show in Chicago I met Gary and Toan Klein, two brothers already famous as camera pickers extraordinaire. They were proudly exhibiting a rosewood-veneered, chamfered-box daguerreotype camera, sans lens, on their table. In an uncharacteristic flash of "smarts" I paid them the twelve hundred dollars they were asking, and thus began my quest to put together a "daguerreian outfit."

With the camera body safely packed in one of my many camera cases, I drove out of Chicago the next day and headed east. My "bug" was loaded down, and I never noticed that, though they looked fine on the outside, my tires were worn bald on the inside. On a rainy stretch of Indiana interstate, I spun out and rolled over four times, ending right side up but nose down in a deep, grassy ditch. I cursed, started the engine and backed up onto the highway. There my beloved VW died for good. I had the tow truck drop me off at a motel right across from a Volkswagon agency and, in the light of a new day, I drove off in yet another of what was to be a long line of VW's.

A couple of days later I found myself in Schenectady, New York, where a tip took me to a camera store that I had been told had antique cameras for sale. As I walked in, I immediately saw something shiny in a glass case. There, next to a bunch of modern Nikon equipment, was a brass lens. Amazing! It was the quarter-plate daguerreian lens my camera was missing. A hundred-dollar bill later it lay well-wrapped next to its long-lost rosewood body.

A week or so later I set up at one of the first New England shows. There, standing in the center of one of the tables, was a nearly complete daguerreian tripod. It was one of the classic acorn foot, cast iron center stands with a tilt top. The only thing missing was the wood elevating screw. H-h-how much? It wasn't for sale. No, the owner would only *trade* it for Civil War images.

The following article by member Mike Kessler was first published in the Nov.-Dec. Cascade Panorama and is used with much thanks. Ed.

Oh God. So close and yet so far. Where would I get Civil War images? Then I remembered my visit a few days earlier to Marvin Kreisman in Missouri. Marvin and his wife Trinket were already collecting legends for having paid the first real money — \$2,500 — for a daguerreian camera at the Strober Auction a couple of years earlier. When I visited them on my way east, I remembered that Marvin had showed me a stack of wonderful Civil War tintypes. Eureka!!! Then I did something that no rational being could conceive. I packed my table in the middle of the show, jumped into the VW and headed for Missouri. I never called Marvin, I just drove ... and drove.

Two days later I banged on the door to the Kreisman's double-wide trailer. A thoroughly surprised Marvin explained to me that he had since sold the tintypes. Just before I could complete the hara-kiri ritual, he said, "Get into the car. I'm on the way to Illinois to buy an image collection. I'm told that there's Civil War in it."

There was. Marvin bought the collection, and I picked out seven super Civil War tintypes — soldiers with guns, knives and the like. However, it took a grueling, five-hour trading session and the sacrifice of several of my best cameras to actually make them my own. I stuck them in my briefcase, jumped into the car and — you guessed it — drove back to Massachusetts. I spread the seven tintypes out in front of the flabbergasted owner of the tripod. He was shrewd, I was desperate, and it cost me a hundred dollar "kicker," but I owned the tripod.

On my next trip east, a year later, I liberated an elevating screw from a partial tripod top I found at the famous Brimfield Flea Market, but the best purchase that day was the tobacco "humidor." Its owner insisted that's what the wooden box with the sliding top and glass insides was, so I smiled and paid the twenty-four dollars he was asking for the daguerreian sensitizing box. A fortuitous stop at the George Eastman House on the way back resulted in a trade (you could do that in those days) for a daguerreian plate box, complete with green, Scovill label. Not long after I bought a daguerreian plate vise, at a Pasadena Antique Show (of all places), from an antique tool dealer who marked it "mystery tool."

To quote Hannibal Smith of the "A Team": "I love it when a plan comes together."

MEMBER E-MAIL INFORMATION:

Bob Peters reports that Rollei's German management is buying out Samsung by the end of December...once again making Rollei a German company. Rollei, which is looking for a new managing director, plans to continue to produce its commercial line of photographic products.

Ted Rozanski reports that the ten volume set of books titled, "Photographic History of the Civil War" was edited by Francis Trevelyan Miller. The first edition was published in 1911 by the Patriot Publishing Company, New York.

If you would like a set, for some light reading, there is currently a set available for \$450.00 plus \$14.50 shipping. Go to: <http://abebooks.com/>

This is quite a price reduction from the \$1,300 quoted in the November **The Bellows**.

You can send e-mail to president Dave Studebaker at davelstud@aol.com
You can send e-mail to The Bellows at billkimber@webtv.net

The following articles are from the May issue of The Photographic Historical Society Newsletter and are used with much thanks, Ed.

And Speaking of Leica, Wanta Buy a Real (working?) Russian FED for \$145?

A really strange 56 page catalog arrived recently. Everything in it is made in Russia. This includes old Tsarist banknotes "...backed by gold!", samovars and wind-up "Russian Victrolas" that only play 78 rpm records (\$245). The FED cameras more interesting. Available "as is" for \$145, or "Professionally Overhauled" for \$295. There is also a "Dr. Zhivago" "old fashioned, 8mm movie camera", which looks something like a late model Keystone. It comes with one Super-8 film cartridge. Extra film: \$17 each. Then there's the "affordable" Horizon panoramic 35mm camera, budget priced at \$695, "compare with \$1200!". The catalog notes that FED stands for Felix E. Dherzhinskiye, Founder of Cheka, which ultimately became the infamous KGB. According to the catalog, the cameras were produced at a top-secret factory using tooling and plans spirited out of Berlin by secret agents." We wonder if Wetzlar was aware of Leica tooling being in Berlin. For a copy of this catalog call Sovietski Collection, 800-442-0002. PO Box 81347, San Diego CA 92138-1347

A sweet start for The Return of the Disc Camera...

For the camera collector, it's one of the greatest impulse items in recent memory. There, sitting next to the check-out cash register is what looks like a NEW Disc camera! A new Disc Camera? Yep! With its built-in "flash", it's truly a "sweet deal" for under \$3! Is it for real? Depends on what you consider "real". Whatever, after your double take, we'll bet you'll have to have a **SweetTart Candy Camera**. Virtually the same size and shape as a Disc camera, the flash is actually a flash light. The "film" is several rolls of Sweet Tarts housed within the camera body and dispensed from the "lens". Ours came from K-Mart.



WHEN ARE THE NEW PRICES GUIDES COMING?

Shirley reports that the new McKeown's should be out around January 15, 2000. It is hoped that McKeown's new price guide will be out by May.

As soon as either book is available the Club will provide paid up P.S.P.C.S. members with a major discount price. Stay tuned. REMEMBER: DUES ARE DUE!!

Answer: The Watch Camera by Lancaster of England was made during the late 1800s. There are both a mens and women's version. These rare cameras have sold at auction for as much as \$34,000 to \$47,000. Reproductions also have been made, costing \$1,100-\$1,200.

